AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1. – 4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) An electrostatic separator for separating particles containing oil out of a gas stream of an internal combustion engine crankcase, comprising:

a chamber having a gas stream inlet and being structured and arranged to redirect the gas stream entering the chamber;

an emission electrode comprising a needle element extending upwardly along a longitudinal axis of the electrostatic separator and arranged to form, relative to a gas stream direction, a front corona region and a rear deposition region;

a deposition electrode surrounding the emission electrode and the rear deposition region;

a collecting trough located at a lower end of the rear deposition region; ~~and~~

an outlet opening structured to receive the separated particles and arranged adjacent the deposition electrode and at a level with or after, relative to the gas flow direction, the rear deposition region;

the chamber located above the emission electrode and having a downwardly converging wall transitioning into the deposition electrode; and

the gas stream inlet arranged at an upper end of the electrostatic separator, the outlet opening arranged at a lower end of the electrostatic separator, wherein the gas stream flows downwards from the chamber and between the emission electrode and the deposition electrode,

wherein the electrostatic separator is structured and arranged to separate the particles containing oil from the gas stream of the internal combustion engine crankcase.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently amended) The electrostatic separator in accordance with claim [[6]] 5, wherein the chamber is structured and arranged to form a cyclone above the emission electrode to redirect the gas stream.

8. (Currently amended) The electrostatic separator in accordance with claim 5, wherein ~~the gas flow direction is from a top of the separator to a bottom of the separator, and wherein walls of the chamber adjoin the deposition electrode so that~~ separated particles collected on the chamber walls flow downward along the deposition electrode to the outlet opening.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently amended) The electrostatic separator in accordance with claim [[9]] 26, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the redirecting element is a baffle arranged within the chamber to redirect the gas stream outwardly.

Claims 11. – 13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) The electrostatic separator in accordance with claim [[12]] 5,

wherein the chamber is structured to form a cyclone, which directs the portion of oil particles in the gas stream against the chamber wall.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) The electrostatic separator in accordance with claim [[12]] 26, wherein the ~~chamber~~ redirecting element includes a baffle structured and arranged to ~~directs~~ direct the portion of oil particles in the gas stream against the chamber wall.

Claim 17. – 25. (Canceled).

26. (New) An electrostatic separator for separating particles containing oil out of a gas stream of an internal combustion engine crankcase, comprising:

a gas stream inlet arranged at a lower end of the electrostatic separator;

a chamber having a redirecting element for redirecting a gas stream entering the chamber;

an emission electrode comprising a needle element extending downwardly along a longitudinal axis of the electrostatic separator and arranged to form, relative to a gas stream direction, a front corona region and a rear deposition region;

a deposition electrode surrounding the emission electrode and the rear deposition region; the chamber located above the emission electrode and having a downwardly converging wall at a lower end of the chamber transitioning into the deposition electrode;

a collecting trough located at the top end of the converging wall; and

an outlet opening positioned adjacent the collecting trough and structured to receive the

separated particles from the collecting trough and arranged at a level after, relative to the gas flow direction, the rear deposition region,

wherein the gas stream flows upwards between the emission electrode and the deposition electrode and into the chamber, and

wherein the electrostatic separator is structured and arranged to separate the particles containing oil from the gas stream of the internal combustion engine crankcase.